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(*b*) the number of persons who got employment through Employment Exchanges in those districts during the year?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Ten thousand, three hundred and fifteen and 5,392 persons registered their names in the Employment Exchanges in Malabar and South Kanara districts respectively.

(*b*) One thousand two hundred and fifty-two in Malabar and 957 in South Kanara got employment through these exchanges.

Tax on elephants

* 2797 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Malabar District Board requested the Government for permission to levy a tax on elephants; and

(*b*) if so, whether the request was granted?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) No.

MR. SPEAKER : Question time is over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* SITUATION IN THE LOWER BHAVANI AREA DUE TO UNJUST LEVIES BY REVENUE AUTHORITIES.

MR. SPEAKER :—I have received two notices, one from Sri K. T. Raju and another from Sri N. K. Palaniswamy, calling attention to matters of urgent public importance under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules. Under rule 40, only one matter has to be allowed, but these two matters are practically the same and I understand that the Hon. Minister for Revenue has agreed to make a joint statement. The notice given by Sri K. T. Raju calls the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the serious situation in the Lower Bhavani area of Erode taluk due to unjust levies by Revenue authorities and coercive action taken by them. The notice given by Sri N. K. Palaniswamy calls attention to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, allowing the peasants in the Lower Bhavani area to raise any crops at least in one-fourth of the lands declared as dry lands.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total ayacut under the Lower Bhavani Project is 2·07 lakhs acres of which 10,000 acres will be wet. This extent of 10,000 acres has not yet been localised and it has been ordered that pending localisation and zoning of ayacut, which will be finalised after watching the progress of cultivation during the next two years, such of the lands as are percolation-affected will continue to be classed as dry and appropriate water cess and penalty as usual will be charged, if paddy is grown out of necessity. But the Jamabandi

officer may examine each case and remit the penalty in full, if he is satisfied that by reason of seepage, the land could not possibly have been cultivated with dry crops. This concession will be for each fasli year until observational data is collected for some years and will be subject to revision and cancellation at any time and from any fasli and subject to the condition that canal water will not be allowed in excess of what is required for an irrigated dry crop, the lands being classified only as "dry" till a final decision is reached. While localising the ayacut of 10,000 acres, the claims of the percolation-affected dry lands will be kept in view and hard cases, if any, will be included in the 10,000 acres provided for paddy crops under the project.

As regards the cultivation of other crops in the Project area, restrictions have been imposed on the cultivation of certain crops in the area. The grievances of the ryots in that regard were met as far as possible without prejudice to the main purpose and scope of the Project as a dry crop scheme. It has been ordered that the cultivation of groundnut and gingelly might also be allowed in addition to cotton and millets subject to the understanding that no water would be made available before the 15th September or so when the canals could be opened for irrigation. The Government have also ordered that cultivation of tobacco, chillies, turmeric, castor, tapioca, yams and pulses might be allowed in the Project area in fields which have the support of wells. No new wells or deepening of existing wells would, however, be permitted in the Project area for the present, that is, until the Project has been functioning for some years. The cultivation of tobacco, chillies, turmeric, castor, tapioca, yams and pulses would be limited to 25 per cent of the maximum extent irrigated under the well in any one fasli during the last ten faslis. If, during the same fasli, the same piece of land has been irrigated for two crops or more, its extent would be counted only once for determining the maximum extent. On the remaining 75 per cent of the ayacut under wells, all the crops permitted for the Project in general, viz., cotton, millets, groundnut, gingelly, etc., would be allowed and also pulses and castor as mixed crops. In the case of mixed crops, only the appropriate highest water cess would be charged. The cultivation of sugarcane, betels and plantains has been prohibited except that backyard cultivation of plantains and vegetables has been allowed to the extent of 10 cents for each existing well without any penalty. Further, scattered fruit trees, coconuts and plantains have also been allowed but not on a field scale, i.e., trees not exceeding ten in number per acre. The above orders were passed after a thorough examination and local inspection by an officer of the rank of Board Member, discussion at a high level conference in the Secretariat and consultation with the project ryots, a majority of whom had expressed their satisfaction in respect of the concessions proposed. It will therefore be seen that the request to raise any crop without any restriction if granted will prejudice the main purpose and scope of the Project. If any specific

case of indiscriminate levying of water rates in respect of the lands which have not yet got the supply of the project water even though they are included in the ayacut, is brought to the notice of the Government, it will be examined.

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

MOTION UNDER RULE 23 (1) (ii) OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES

10-20 THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I beg to move—

" That rule 23 (1) (ii) of the Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 24th November 1955."

SRI K. T. RAJU : On a point of order, Sir, நான் கொடுத்த பொது முக்கிய விஷயப் பிரேரேபணையில் கண்ட penalty சம்பந்தமாக, rule 40-படி கனம் மந்திரியார் அவர்கள் படித்த ஸ்டேட்மெண்டில் ஒன்றுமே இல்லை. அதைப்பற்றி ஏன் பதில் இல்லை என்று கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : Under rule 40, a Member may call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may then make a brief statement on the matter or ask for time to make a statement later. The Member calling attention cannot say that the Minister had not said this or the other and ask for further elucidation. I do not think it is a point of order. Motion moved—

" That rule 23 (1) (ii) of the Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 24th November 1955."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : It is only for seeking some information that I am raising. I want to know whether this arrangement was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and an agreement arrived at.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and a unanimous decision was taken that on the 24th Government business should be transacted.

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Has any day been allotted in this sitting for the transaction of non-official business?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I spoke about this day before yesterday on the floor of this House. On the 26th November, the rest of the day after the discussion of the Appropriation Bill will be allotted for non-official business.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

" That rule 23 (1) (ii) of the Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 24th November 1955."

The motion was put and carried.